

NP, NSC, Saunders

ME Neaps.

Box: 1282

Folder: Iran 1/1/72-5/31/72



Department of State

TELEGRAM

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 297

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 00279 151117Z

22

ACTION: NEA-11

INFO: OCT-01 EUR-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-06 INSAE-00 P-03

RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 PM-06 SA-03 RSR-01 (NSCE-00,

NSC-10,) W

025841

PER 151037Z JAN 72
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7096
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
CINCEUR
COMIDEASTFOR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ TEHRAN 0279

DEPT PLEASE PASS MANAMA

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO US/BAHRAIN NAVAL ARRANGEMENT

REF A. TEHRAN 170
(B) TEHRAN 165

1. AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF EDITORIAL SILENCE PRESTIGIOUS
ETELAT AT JANUARY 13 AND TEHRAN JOURNAL JANUARY 15 CARRIED

LONG EDITORIAL EXPRESSING SURPRISE AT AND OBJECTION TO
AGREEMENT "UNDER WHICH US MIDDLE EAST FLEET WILL BE ABLE
TO USE PART OF OLD BRITISH NAVAL BASE IN PERSIAN GULF."
EDITORIAL REVIEWS ARRANGEMENTS BY WHICH US NAVY

ESTABLISHED PRESENCE IN GULF, QUESTIONS RIGHT BAHRAIN
TO PERMIT FOREIGN MILITARY PRESENCE IN GULF AND URGES US
TO RECONSIDER THIS ARRANGEMENT AND LEAVE THE GULF. FOLLOWING
POINTS MADE IN EDITORIAL:

NP, NSC, Saunders
ME Neeps.

Box:

Folder:

Department of State

TELEGRAM



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 00279 151117Z

(A) IT "RATHER STRANGE" AFTER ALL EFFORT TO GET SOUTHERN COAST OF PERSIAN GULF FREE FROM BRITISH AND TO RESTORE NAVAL LEADERSHIP TO REGIONAL POWERS AND WHEN, AFTER CENTURIES, COLONIALISM FINALLY ENDING, THAT ANOTHER OUTSIDE POWER SHOULD BE PERMITTED REPLACE BRITAIN."

(B) THIS MORE SURPRISING IN VIEW IRAN'S OFT-REPEATED POSITION GULF STATES THEMSELVES MUST ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY

FOR AREA WITH NO OUTSIDE COUNTRIES "PERMITTED" REPLACE BRITAIN.

(C) "UNDER AGREEMENT WITH BRITAIN" THREE US WARSHIPS ARRIVED IN BAHRAIN 12 YEARS AGO "ON PRETEXT OF REPAIRS AND REFUELING" AND HAVE REMAINED THERE SINCE. IT IS SURPRISING THAT DURING THIS NEW CHAPTER OF HISTORY AMERICANS STAY ON AND ONE MUST WONDER "TO WHAT PURPOSES THEY HAVE SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH BAHRAIN TO CONTINUE THEIR PRESENCE HERE." DESPITE BFTMUBARAK'S STATEMENT THAT BAHRAIN HAS NO SECRET AGREEMENT WITH US, PRESENCE OF THREE WARSHIPS, EVEN FOR REPAIRS AND REFUELING, "CANNOT BUT BE ACCEPTED WITH MISGIVINGS."

(D) SINCE THIS DEVELOPMENT "RELATES TO SECURITY OF ALL PEOPLES OF THE REGION NO LITTORAL STATE HAS THE RIGHT TO GRANT PERMISSION TO FOREIGN COUNTRY, LARGE OR SMALL, TO MAINTAIN MILITARY PRESENCE IN GULF EVEN FOR REPAIRS AND REFUELING PURPOSES BECAUSE THERE IS ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH ACTION MAY LEAD TO ENDANGERING SECURITY OF OTHER NATIONS." CONDUCT OF US "WHICH HAS ALWAYS PROFESSED IT WAS SUPPORTER OF LIBERTY AND FREEDOM OF OTHERS IS SURPRISING," AND US SHOULD UNDERSTAND THIS ACTION IS LIKELY TO "CREATE MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN THE REGION."

(E) SOVIETS AND OTHERS ARE FULLY JUSTIFIED IN PROTESTING STATIONING OF THREE AMERICAN WARSHIPS IN THE REGION. IRAN HAS "EVEN GREATER RIGHT TO PROTEST THIS UNWISE ACTION WHICH CERTAINLY IS AGAINST INTERESTS OF REGIONAL SECURITY EDG URLDEM# AND THAT US SHOULD REVIEW ITS WRONG POLICY, TO SAY THE LEAST, AND LEAVE THE PERSIAN GULF AS SOON AS POSSIBLE." ALL COUNTRIES SHOULD KNOW "THAT THE PERSIAN GULF IS NOT OPEN TO IMPERIALIST DESIGNS BY OUTSIDE POWERS AND REGIONAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NP, NSC, Saunders
ME Neeps.
Box:
Folder:



Department of State

TELEGRAM

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
PAGE 03 TEHRAN 00279 151117Z

POWERS SHALL COMBAT WITH ALL MEANS AT THEIR DISPOSAL ATTEMPTS BY FOREIGN POWERS, IRRESPECTIVE OF SIZE, TO INFILTRATE GULF."

2. COMMENT: AS REPORTED IN REFTELS, GOI HAS UP UNTIL NOW REFRAINED FROM ADVERSE COMMENT ON COMIDEASTFOR ARRANGEMENTS WITH BAHRAIN, AND FONMIN KHALATBARI HAS ATTEMPTED DAMPEN DOWN PRESS INTEREST IN THIS MATTER. WE RELIABLY INFORMED

THAT ETELAAT EDITORIAL WAS WRITTEN UNDER INSTRUCTION (WE DO NOT KNOW WHOSE) WITH PAPER TOLD EXPLICITLY WHAT POINTS TO MAKE BY MINISTRY OF INFORMATION. THIS MINISTRY WOULD NOT IN TURN HAVE TAKEN THIS LINE UNLESS IT HAD HIGH-LEVEL INSTRUCTIONS. AMBASSADOR IS SEEING ALAM LATER TODAY AND WILL SEEK CLARIFY APPARENT CHANGE IN IRANIAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS COMIDEASTFOR. OUR VERY TENTATIVE REACTION IS THIS EDITORIAL DOES NOT REPRESENT CHANGE IN GOI POSITION OF ACQUIESCENCE IN PRESENCE OF COMIDEASTFOR IN GULF

BUT RATHER DESIRE (A) TO PLACE IRAN ON RECORD AGAINST EXTERNAL PRESENCE IN GULF AND THUS ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH OTHER COUNTRIES OF REGION ON THIS ISSUE, AND (B) TO BE IN A POSITION TO CRITICIZE AND OBJECT TO ANY EFFORTS BY SOVIETS TO ESTABLISH PRESENCE IN GULF OR STEP UP THEIR ACTIVITIES THERE. GP-3.
MACARTHUR

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED MANAMA.
NOTE BY OC/T: WAS RECEIVED.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~